



## GOVERNOR MALLOY'S 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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Governor Malloy believes Connecticut has made positive, tangible changes in recent years, changes that have helped **create more than 40,000 private sector jobs, lower Connecticut's long term debt by more than 11 and a half billion dollars, and leave our state with a \$500 million surplus this year.**

This progress has only been possible through the hard work and sacrifice of the people of Connecticut. That's why **Connecticut families should share in Connecticut's emerging recovery**, especially when it comes to **making sure that every child has access to a quality education**, one that takes them as far as their dreams and hard work will allow. His 2014 agenda reflects those beliefs:

- **Committing Connecticut to universal pre-kindergarten** will give every child the start they deserve to be successful. And other bold education initiatives will:
  - Help make college more affordable and accessible;
  - Invest in our great community colleges and state universities;
  - Ensure students are better prepared for college and a career before they finish high school; and
  - Encourage more Connecticut residents to go back to college to graduate and get ahead.
- An **increase in Connecticut's minimum wage to bring it to \$10.10 by 2017** will help reduce income inequality and give some of our hardest working citizens a much-deserved raise.
- An addition of **\$270 million into the state's Rainy Day Fund** plus, an additional **\$100 million payment toward our pension obligations** will shore up state finances now and into the future.
- A **modest tax refund** combined with more than **\$447 million in longer-term tax relief** will help make sure taxpayers share in Connecticut's recovery.
- Continued support of Connecticut's **successful Small Business Express Program**, as well as a **new \$125 million investment** to support even more employers and manufacturers, will help Connecticut **continue to grow jobs.**

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## OVERVIEW

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### 1. Invests in Connecticut Students with Five Bold New Initiatives

- **Moves Connecticut to statewide access for universal pre-K.** Expands early childhood education to serve 4,000 more children by 2018—and provides funding to help towns prepare—on our way to full statewide access.
- **Creates the “CHET Baby Scholars” program.** Offers new parents up to a \$250 investment in a tax-free college savings account for their child.
- **Develops Early College Opportunities.** Establishes pathways that enable high schools students to earn college credit and experience in high-tech disciplines in preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs of the future. .
- **Invests in Connecticut’s state community colleges and universities with ‘Transform CSCU 2020.’** Provides \$134.5 million to bring all 17 campuses into a single, student-centered, technology-enriched system while improving the student experience and degree completion.
- **Improves college completion rates.** Launches the Go Back to Get Ahead program to any Connecticut resident who began their degree but has been out of the classroom for at least 18 months one free course for each course they take, up to three free courses in total in pursuit of a college degree.

### 2. Allocates Connecticut’s Budget Surplus in a Responsible Way

- **Puts the lion’s share of the surplus directly into our Rainy Day Fund.** Adds an additional 270 million to the fund, bringing it to more than half a billion dollars.
- **Continues to pay down long-term debt.** Makes an extra \$100 million payment toward state pension obligations.
- **Gives back to Connecticut taxpayers.** Issues a refund on sales and gas taxes to all taxpayers of \$110 for families and \$55 for individuals.

### 3. Ensures that Connecticut Families Share in our Economic Recovery

- **Increases CT’s minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017.**
- **Implements longer-term tax relief that totals \$447 million over the biennium:**
  - Continues to phase-in exemption of clothing under \$50 from sales tax.
  - Continues to restore EITC to 30 percent.
  - Exempts non-prescription drugs from sales tax.
  - Exempts 50% of Teachers' Pensions from income tax (phased-in).
  - Exempts towns from the insurance premiums tax on health plans.
  - Provides a two-day state park fee holiday.
  - Extends the angel investor tax credit.

### 4. Continues to Grow Jobs

- **Continues to fund the Small Business Express program,** which has already helped nearly 1,000 companies create and maintain more than 13,000 jobs.
- **Supports Connecticut businesses** with \$100 million in increased funding for the Manufacturing Assistance Act and \$25 million for a new Advanced Manufacturing Fund.
- **Reduces the number of unemployed** by supporting the successful STEP UP program with an additional \$10 million, launching a statewide program to get the long-term unemployed back to work, and prohibiting employers from discriminating based on employment status.